

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed April 8, 2004, solely for the purpose of advancing prosecution of this case and without addressing the veracity of the Examiner's election requirement, Applicants hereby elect to prosecute Group I (Claims 1-31, 44-48, and 50) without traverse. Applicants, therefore, withdraw Group II (Claims 32-43 and 49) from the above-identified patent application without prejudice or disclaimer. This election is made to expedite issuance of a patent from this Application. Applicants do not necessarily agree with or acquiesce to the Examiner's conclusion reflected in the Office Action.

Applicants filed a Revocation of Attorney and Appointment of New Attorneys for Non-Provisional Application, with Certificate under 37 C.F.R. 3.73(b) on April 16, 2002, a copy is attached herewith. It was requested at that time that the address be used under the Customer Number listed on that document. To date, Applicants' mail is being sent to the Applicants' previous attorneys. Therefore, Applicants are enclosing a Customer Number Association document and request all correspondence be sent to Applicants' attorneys at the address listed under the Customer Number.

CONCLUSION

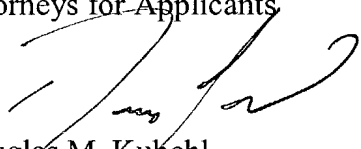
Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and full allowance of all pending Claims.

Applicants do not believe that any additional fees are due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If the Examiner feels that a conference would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, Douglas M. Kubehl stands willing to conduct such a telephone interview at the convenience of the Examiner. Mr. Kubehl may be reached at 214-953-6486.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorneys for Applicants


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Date: 5-5-04

Correspondence Address:

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